Fake Stamp Paper

†435. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the trade of fake stamp paper is going on at rapid pace in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether some persons have been arrested, so far, in this matter;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any action against them, so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assembly Elections in Assam

436. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Assembly Elections in Assam are due in April, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the dates on which the poll will take place have been finalised and announced;

(c) whether the law and order situation in Assam is being constantly reviewed; and

(d) what further steps are proposed to be taken to ensure a fair and peaceful election in the State?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The term of present Legislative Assembly of Assam, in the normal course, will expire on 11.6.2001 and a general election to constitute a new Legislative Assembly will have to be conducted so that the new House is constituted before this date. The Election Commission has, however, not fixed any specific date for the elections as yet.

(c) It is for the State Government to take action in the matter.

(d) The Election Commission has stated that it will take every possible steps to ensure fair and peaceful elections in the State, within the framework of law.